

Volunteers Needed at Horse Shows

4-H horse shows take a lot of planning and organization. Many of you have been very gracious in helping at these events. Others feel willing to help but may feel unqualified, or they just do not know enough about the program to see what needs to be done. The following is a list of four “Positions” that we need help with at every show. Horse Council members will be available to help but will take the role of “floating managers” and grievance committee. Assignments should be made through your clubs, but please be willing to help any time if called upon. All parents will be assigned to the arena their child will be performing at so they will be able to watch. We hope this list will show our need and may dispel any apprehension.

Judged Show

Western Equitation:

-Gate Steward* -Ring Steward -Announcer*

Western Horsemanship:

-Gate Steward* -Ring Steward -Announcer*

Gymkhana Gig:

-Gate Steward* -Ring Steward -Announcer*

Definitions for these Positions are on the reverse side

Total Adults: 7-10 Jobs per arena (3 arenas) = 21-30 jobs

Note: If the same adult remained in their position for the whole show, it would require only 3-4 parents per arena.

*Can be the same person

Speed Show

Barrels:

-Gate Steward* -Equipment Stewards (x2) -Announcer*

Poles:

-Gate Steward* -Equipment Stewards (x2) -Announcer*

Key Hole:

-Gate Steward* -Equipment Stewards (x2) -Announcer*

Total Adults: 9-12 per arena (3 arenas) = 27-36 jobs

Note: If the same adult remained in their position for the whole show, it would require only 3-4 parents per arena.

*Can be the same person

Note: it is important that volunteers wear appropriate attire. (Flip-flops don't work very well!☺) Shirts should not advertise anything inappropriate. Items that may distract or scare horses should be removed (watch alarms, chains, etc.)

Gate Steward:

The role of this person is to manage the flow of youth in and out of the arena. They are given a clipboard with the names and numbers of the youth. The Gate Steward opens and closes the gate and calls out the next few youth in line to make sure they are present and ready. This is a very important, but simple job. A Gate Steward provides a smooth flow to the show.

Equipment Stewards:

This job varies with the event. Simply put, the Equipment Steward makes sure all equipment is in the correct position when one rider leaves before the next one enters. This includes repositioning barrels, poles, logs, and any other piece of equipment in the arena. Occasional hand raking is needed. You may also need to pick up flying hats or other fallen personal gear. All equipment will have already been placed correctly. You just need to put it back when a horse knocks it down or kicks it over.

Announcer:

A good strong voice is all that's needed. The announcer calls out the next youth to enter the arena, assists the judge with commands ("lope your horse," "Stop your horse," etc.), and calls out times in speed events. With wireless mike systems, this job can be done by the Gate Steward.

Ring Steward:

The Ring Steward is the judge's assistant. They assist in any way needed. They should be dressed in western attire and act in a conservative manner. The Ring Steward is responsible for the organization and safety of the riders while they are in the arena. They may be used as part of a pattern (halter) or asked to line the youth up. They clear up bunched horses and watch for unruly animals.